

Comment on *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* ([NPRM](#)) in WT Docket 05-235.

By Gary J. Sharbuno wi9m

I have been an amateur radio operator for 41 years. I have held all classes of license except technician. I have been active on all bands and various modes all that time.

For 20 plus years I ran a group that did amateur radio testing. I have experienced all different kinds of situations regarding the testing procedure. The written exams are not that easy to pass, for I could tell those who just looked at the study manual just the night before and really flunked it badly, to people who just sat down and got through the exam in nothing flat, and read through the whole study guide. Lots of people needed to retake the exam, and others did not. One does learn about the hobby going through these study guides, and experience comes the more one is on the air.

The morse code test is another issue. For lots of people it is easy to learn, and increase speed, others have a terrible time learning the code. This situation leaves lots of people with the technician class and the only way to get on the air is via vhf/uhf bands, and no opportunity to try the high frequencies. This leaves out a lot of well versed folks that could contribute lots to the amateur community.

The testing of the morse code is really not needed anymore to qualify people to operate on the HF amateur bands. With the use of keyboards now days, a typing test would be more applicable.

The code test is more of a road block then a test to bring in more qualified people into the hobby.

The amateur population in the United States is sixty percent technician, and we must do something to keep them in our ranks.

They would be very good HF operators, if given the proper chance.

There are lots of ways to enjoy this hobby, by operation of SSB, CW, TELEVISION, PSK31 and other Digital modes. There is lots of room for more operators on the HF bands, and if these bands get underutilized, they may disappear to commercial service. These commercial people have lots of money to spend on lobbyists.

In closing I believe the testing of morse code should be abolished.